

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /024 W

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R 131500Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6753

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4727

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, LI

SUBJECT: A. S. INDUSTRIES CASE

REF: STATE 171871

1. STILL UNABLE LOCATE DARAMEY OR OBTAIN INFORMATION ON A. S. INDUSTRIES BUT WILL KEEP LOOKING.

2. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS OUT OF TOWN, BUT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE CALLED ON DEPUTY WITH COPY OF EXPORT ENTRY TO INQUIRE INTO MATTER. DEPUTY INDICATED HE DID NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZE SIGNATURE OF CUSTOMS COLLECTOR ON FORM, AND THAT IT DEFINITELY NOT REGULAR COLLECTOR AT ROBERTSFIELD. HE ALSO NOTED FORM NOT DATED. FACT THAT FORM NOT DATED CAUSED DIFFICULTY IN SEARCH, BUT DEPUTY CHECKED ALL RECORDS FROM SEPTEMBER 1974 TO FEBRUARY 1975 (BOTH CUSTOMS OFFICE RECORDS AND CASHIER'S RECORDS) AND UNABLE FIND ANY RECORD OF THIS FORM OF DUTY PAYMENT. WE INFER FROM DEPUTY'S COMMENTS THAT HE CONSIDERS EXPORT ENTRY FORM FRADULANT.

3. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CHECK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM COHEN OR INGBER MIGHT BE USEFUL IN OUR SEARCH:

A. ON WHAT DATE WAS PAYMENT OF DUTY MADE?

B. WHERE WAS THE PAYMENT MADE (DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING, ITS LOCATION, ETC)?

C. TO WHOM WAS THE PAYMENT MADE AND WHO ELSE WAS PRESENT AT THE TIME?

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D. HOW WERE PREVIOUS TRANSACTIONS HANDLED (PARA 1-1,

REFTEL) AND CAN EMBASSY BE PROVIDED COPIES OF THOSE EXPORT ENTRY FORMS?

E. WHO IN EMBASSY ASSURED COHEN TRANSACTIONS ALRIGHT (PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION WOULD HELP)?

F. DETAILED RECAP OF EVENTS, INCLUDING MEETING PLACES, DATES AND PLACES OF PAYMENTS (AND TO WHOM PAYMENTS MADE) AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION MIGHT HELP US IN OUR INVESTIGATION.

4. COMMENT: WE MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN INFO A. S. INDUSTRIES FROM OTHER MINISTRIES (COMMERCE AND LANDS & MINES) AND MAY BE ABLE LOCATE DARAMEY. HOWEVER, IF GOL HAS NO RECORD OF THIS TRANSACTION EMBASSY'S POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION LIMITED. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND PATTERSON'S SKEPTICISM RE LEGAL ACTION IN LIBERIA, WE DO NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND HIS REFUSAL ATTEMPT TO USE LEGAL MEANS RECOVER THIS LARGE SUM OF MONEY. THERE PROBABLY NUMBER OF LAWYERS IN TOWN WHO WOULD BE WILLING HANDLE MATTER. AT ANY RATE, IT WOULD SEEM ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION IF PATTERSON, INGBER AND COHEN SERIOUS ABOUT RECOVERING MONEY.
MANFULL

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